

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CPR-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PRS-01 PA-01 BIB-01 A-01 H-02 /050 W

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O 081449Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 516

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL MADRAS NIACT IMMEDIATE

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, CASC

SUBJ: GOI AND VOA CORRESPONDENT - EMBASSY/USIS

COMMENTS

1. GOI'S MESSAGE ON "ANOMALY" OF VOA CORRESPONDENT'S STATUS, COMMUNICATED TO EMBOFFS BY MEA TODAY (SEE SEPTTEL), PUTS BALL BACK IN US COURT. HAKSAR NOTED HE HOPED ISTUATION COULD BE RESOLVED QUICKLY AND TWICE ASKED ACTING PAO FOR MONDAY REPLY ON US THOUGHTS. SEEMS PROBABLY HE IS UNDER SOME PRESSURE TO GET VOA CORRESPONDENT UNDER CONTROL OR GET HIM OUT OF INDIA.

2. DIPLOMATIC STATUS OF CORRESPONDENT AS WE SEE IT IS LESS THE REAL ISSUE THAN UNAVOIDABLE FACTS THAT
A) VOA CORRESPONDENT IS OFFICIAL OF USG WHATEVER PASSPORT HE MAY CARRY AND B) HE IS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS EMPLOYERS, AS MEA KNOWS, NOT TO SIGN ANY UNDERTAKING WITH RESPECT TO CENSORSHIP GUIDELINES AND IS REPORTING WITHOUT OBSERVING CENSORSHIP. THUS, LIFTING OF MILLER'S DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND SUBSTITUTION OF OFFICIAL FOR DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT WOULD NOT REALLY RESOLVE "ANOMALY", ONLY POSTPONE DECISION.

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CLEARLY, FROM CONTEXT OF CONVERSATIONS WITH MEA SPOKES-

AMN, GOI IS UNHAPPY WITH VOA'S NEWS COVERAGE OF
INDIAN EVENTS AND FACT MILLER HAS NOT SIGNED UP SO
THEY WOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO HOLD HIM TO.

3. BEFORE CONSIDERING WHETHER WE WISH TO PUT INTO
EFFECT THE SCENARIO FOR VOA CORRESPONDENT WITH-
DRAWAL, BELIEVE WE NEED TO DEVELOP ADDITIONAL INFOR-
MATION ON STATUS OF SUCH OTHER "OFFICIAL" MEDIA REPS
AS TASS CORRESPONDENTS, HISTORICAL RECORD MILLER
DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND ACCREDITATION, ETC.

4. WE INCLINED TO BELIEVE GOI WILL NOT FORCE ISSUE
IF WE DELAY REPLY SOMEWHAT BEYOND MONDAY. HOWEVER,
SHOULD ISSUE BE FORCED THAT EARLY, IN TERMS OF SIGN
OR DEPART, WOULD APPRECIATE STATE/USIA AGREEMENT
THAT WITHDRAWAL SCENARIO WOULD GO INTO EFFECT.
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, EXPULSION, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE10768
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750274-0781
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750870/aaaacjkj.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOI AND VOA CORRESPONDENT - EMBASSY/USIS COMMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, CASC, IN, VOA
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006